

PATENT

Application # 10/780,037

Attorney Docket # 1057-002

AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A columbarium wall, comprising a plurality of masonry courses, each of the masonry courses comprising a plurality of mortared structural masonry blocks arranged in a predetermined block pattern, the predetermined block pattern defining a plurality of regularly-spaced niches located external to each structural masonry block and dimensioned to receive at least one box-urn that encloses a volume of at least 200 cubic inches, a sub-plurality of niches defined by a first course from the plurality of masonry courses offset along a length of the wall with respect to a sub-plurality of niches defined by a second course from the plurality of masonry courses.
2. (Withdrawn) The columbarium wall of claim 1, further comprising a waterproof wall cap installed above an entire top course of the plurality of masonry courses.
3. (Withdrawn) The columbarium wall of claim 1, further comprising a foundation supporting the plurality of masonry courses.
4. (Withdrawn) The columbarium wall of claim 1, wherein, when installed, each structural masonry block is defined by a block length, a block width, and a block thickness, and the block length is greater than the block width and the block thickness, and the block length extends parallel to the length of the columbarium wall.
5. (Withdrawn) The columbarium wall of claim 1, wherein each niche is defined by a niche length, a niche width, and a niche thickness, and the niche length is greater than the niche width

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and the niche thickness, and the length extends perpendicular to the length of the columbarium wall.

6. (Withdrawn) The columbarium wall of claim 1, wherein, when installed, each structural masonry block comprises a cavity that extends substantially horizontally.
7. (Withdrawn) The columbarium wall of claim 1, wherein each niche extends substantially horizontally.
8. (Withdrawn) The columbarium wall of claim 1, further comprising:
a facade adjacent the plurality of masonry courses.
9. (Withdrawn) The columbarium wall of claim 1, further comprising:
a plurality of brick courses adjacent the plurality of masonry courses, each of the brick courses comprising a plurality of mortared bricks arranged in a predetermined brick pattern, the predetermined brick pattern defining a plurality of regularly-spaced niche entrances, each niche entrance covered by a plurality of bricks.
10. (Withdrawn) A sepulchral facility comprising the columbarium wall of claim 1.
11. (Currently amended) A device comprising:
a first wooden portion comprising a substantially rectangular and substantially planar face interlocked to an opposing pair of substantially rectangular and substantially planar sides and to an opposing pair of substantially rectangular and substantially planar ends via a first plurality of mortise and tenon joints, said sides interlocked to said ends via a second plurality of mortise and tenon joints, said first wooden portion defining a cremains cavity; and

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a substantially planar wooden lid adapted to be attached to said first wooden portion and to permanently close said cremains cavity to form an airtight cremains space, said wooden lid comprising a plurality of vents adapted to vent the cremains cavity upon attachment of said wooden lid to said first wooden portion and to be sealed upon permanently closing of said cremains cavity.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11, further comprising a protective finish located on an exterior surface of said first wooden portion and on an exterior surface of said wooden lid.

13. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein the cremains space has a volume of at least 200 cubic inches.

14. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein said device is defined by a maximum dimension not exceeding 12 inches.

15. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein said wooden lid is adapted to be attached to said first wooden portion via a plurality of screws.

16. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein the cremains cavity is adapted to be permanently closed via gluing said wooden lid to said first wooden portion.

17. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein said first wooden portion is interlocked via a plurality of tongue and groove joints.

18. (Cancelled).

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19. (Currently amended) The device of claim 11, wherein said device, when permanently closed, retains structural integrity when exposed to temperatures ranging from ~~of~~ about -20F to about 180F.

20. (Currently amended) A substantially-wooden box-urn comprising a plurality of permanently sealed vents and a plurality of mortise and tenon joints.

21. (Currently amended) A system comprising:
a columbarium wall containing the ~~substantially-wooden box-urn~~ of claim 20.

22. (Original) A method, comprising fabricating the device of claim 11.

23. (Withdrawn) A method, comprising constructing a sepulchral facility that comprises the columbarium wall of claim 1.

24. (Withdrawn) A method, comprising:
on a previously constructed foundation for a columbarium wall defined by a wall length, a wall height, and a wall thickness, installing a plurality of masonry courses, each of the masonry courses comprising a plurality of mortared structural masonry blocks arranged in a predetermined block pattern, the predetermined block pattern defining a plurality of regularly-spaced niches located external to each structural masonry block and dimensioned to receive at least one box-urn that encloses a volume of at least 200 cubic inches, a sub-plurality of niches defined by a first course from the plurality of masonry courses offset along the wall length with respect to a sub-plurality of niches defined by a second course from the plurality of masonry courses.

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25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein, when installed, each structural masonry block is defined by a block length, a block width, and a block thickness, and the block length is greater than the block width and the block thickness, and the block length extends parallel to the wall length.
26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein, each masonry course from the plurality of masonry courses comprises at least two adjacent structural masonry blocks, each of the at least two adjacent structural masonry blocks defined by a block length, a block width, and a block thickness, and the block length is greater than the block width and the block thickness, and the block length extends parallel to the wall length.
27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein each niche is defined by a niche length, a niche width, and a niche thickness, and the niche length is greater than the niche width and the niche thickness, and the length extends perpendicular to the wall length.
28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein, when installed, each structural masonry block comprises a cavity that extends substantially horizontally.
29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein each niche extends substantially horizontally.
30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
constructing a foundation for the columbarium wall.
31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
capping an entire top course from the plurality of masonry courses with a

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waterproof material.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

installing a facade adjacent the plurality of masonry courses.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

installing a plurality of brick courses adjacent the plurality of masonry courses, each of the brick courses comprising a plurality of mortared bricks arranged in a predetermined brick pattern, the predetermined brick pattern defining a plurality of regularly-spaced niche entrances, each niche entrance covered by a plurality of removable, lengthwise vertically-oriented, recessed bricks.

34. (Original) A method, comprising

placing cremains within the device of claim 11.

35. (Original) A method, comprising

placing the device of claim 11 in a niche of a columbarium wall.

36. (Withdrawn) A method, comprising:

placing a box-urn in a niche of a columbarium wall of claim 1.

37. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

placing cremains within a cremains cavity defined by a wooden box-urn comprising a substantially rectangular and substantially planar face interlocked to an opposing pair of substantially rectangular and substantially planar sides and to an opposing pair of substantially rectangular and substantially planar ends via a first plurality of mortise and

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tenon joints, the sides interlocked to the ends via a second plurality of mortise and tenon joints; and

permanently closing the cremains cavity with a substantially planar wooden lid adapted to be attached to the first wooden portion and to permanently close the cremains cavity to form an airtight cremains space within a cremains container, the wooden lid comprising a plurality of vents adapted to vent the cremains cavity upon attachment of the wooden lid to the first wooden portion and to be sealed upon permanent closure of the cremains cavity.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37, further comprising adhering the first wooden portion to the wooden lid.

39. (Original) The method of claim 37, further comprising attaching the first wooden portion to the wooden lid via a plurality of screws.

40. (Original) The method of claim 37, further comprising placing the cremains container in a niche of a columbarium wall.

41. (Original) A device comprising a cremains container for use in claim 37.

42. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

placing in a niche of a columbarium wall a substantially-wooden box-urn comprising a plurality of permanently sealed vents and a plurality of mortise and tenon joints.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42, further comprising preparing the niche to receive the box-urn.

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44. (Original) The method of claim 42, further comprising closing the niche.
45. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the niche is defined by a plurality of masonry courses arranged to form the columbarium wall, the wall defined by a wall length, each of the masonry courses comprising a plurality of mortared structural masonry blocks arranged in a predetermined block pattern, the niche external to each structural masonry block.
46. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the box-urn encloses a volume of at least 200 cubic inches.
47. (Original) A device comprising a cremains container for use in claim 42.
48. (Withdrawn) A device comprising a columbarium wall for use in claim 42.
49. (New) The device of claim 11, wherein said device, when permanently closed, retains structural integrity when exposed to temperatures of about 180F.